



EPA Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot

Puerto Rico Infrastructure Financing Authority

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5105)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, and safely clean up brownfields to promote their sustainable reuse. Brownfields are abandoned, idled, or under-used industrial and commercial facilities where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years, with additional funding provided for greenspace) to test assessment models and facilitate coordinated assessment and cleanup efforts at the federal, state, tribal, and local levels; and job training pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years) to provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites and prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field; and, cleanup revolving loan fund program (each funded up to \$1,000,000 over five years) to provide financial assistance for the environmental cleanup of brownfields. These pilot programs are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

BACKGROUND

EPA has selected the Puerto Rico Infrastructure Financing Authority for a Brownfields Assessment Pilot. The Infrastructure Financing Authority, a Puerto Rico government agency, seeks to revitalize the Route 127 industrial corridor as an adjunct to the Puerto Rico Transshipment Port Project, which will result in a new deep-draft, container transshipment port in the Caribbean. The Route 127 corridor, which runs from Guayanilla to Punuelas, the two communities that will be most influenced by the new port, is the area targeted by the Pilot.

During the energy crisis of the 1970s, many operations in the corridor closed and those that remained reduced their level of productivity. Some properties in the corridor suspected to be contaminated have been idle for more than twenty years, with no apparent prospect for redevelopment. The economic decline of the corridor has contributed to the economic distress of families in the Pilot area. The unemployment rate is 25 percent in some parts of the corridor, and two-thirds of the families live below the poverty level. Median family income is approximately \$8,500.

PILOT SNAPSHOT



*Puerto Rico Infrastructure
Financing Authority*

Date of Announcement:
April 2001

Amount: \$100,000

Profile: The Pilot targets three abandoned industrial facilities in the Route 127 industrial corridor for assessment and eventual redevelopment into facilities that would support a new deep-draft international port.

Contacts:

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Visit the EPA Region 2 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/r02earth/superfnd/brownfld/bfmainpg.htm>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:

<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

OBJECTIVES

The Infrastructure Financing Authority's objective is to develop brownfields into facilities that would support activities of the port, once it is operational. As part of this effort, the Pilot plans to inventory and characterize each parcel along the corridor, complete a site assessment and prepare a complete profile on one parcel, and conduct community involvement.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Creating an inventory and initial assessment of each parcel in the corridor;
- Conducting a complete environmental site assessment and developing a Parcel Profile for one site (selected from three that have been identified as priorities in the corridor); and
- Instituting vigorous citizen outreach and involvement, including formation of a Pilot Project Advisory Committee that would include community members.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.